



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### SOLOMON, KANSAS, WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO WIRE FRAUD

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Jane E. Shirack**, 50, Solomon, Kansas, entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Julie A. Robinson on December 8, 2003, to four counts of wire fraud.

Melgren said that Shirack admitted at her plea that from 1993 to March 29, 2002, she was employed as a bookkeeper and company treasurer of American Underwriters Service Incorporated (AUSI), an insurance company with operations in Abilene, Kansas, and Scottsdale, Arizona. In 2002, company officials audited the finances of the companies and determined that beginning in 1998 Shirack had used her position as the company bookkeeper to defraud the company of approximately \$772,861.19. Shirack admitted that she executed this scheme to defraud AUSI by inflating payroll checks she wrote to herself, writing herself "extra" payroll checks, making unauthorized deposits into her company retirement account, paying herself unearned stock dividends, writing checks from the company's business checking accounts to purchase personal items and pay her personal debts, and writing checks on AUSI's business checking accounts in her capacity as the company's bookkeeper and depositing those checks into her personal bank accounts, as well as depositing third-party checks written to AUSI into her personal accounts. In furtherance of this scheme, Shirack admitted that on four occasions beginning on June 15, 2001, and ending on September 12, 2001, she arranged for wire transfers of money from one of the company's accounts in Abilene, Kansas, to a company bank in Scottsdale, Arizona, and then wrote checks on this Arizona account and deposited these checks into her personal bank account in Salina, Kansas.

Shirack faces a maximum of thirty years in federal prison without parole and a \$1,000,000 fine. Sentencing is set for March 8, 2004, at 9:00 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney James Brown in this prosecution.

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